



August 16, 2023

Herman Miller Increases Use of Ocean-bound Plastic with Aeron Chair

The Aeron Chair Portfolio, including new colourway Onyx Ultra Matte, and other product and packaging solutions will incorporate mismanaged plastic waste found near waterways as part of the company's commitment to use 50 per cent recycled content in all materials by 2030.





Today, Herman Miller (NASDAQ:MLHR) announced that its entire portfolio of Aeron Chairs will contain ocean-bound plastic, including a new colour, Onyx Ultra Matte, which contains up to 1.13 kg of mismanaged plastic waste found near waterways per chair. These material changes in the Aeron Portfolio specifically are projected to save the ocean from over 136 tonnes of plastic annually – equal to approximately 15 million single-use plastic water bottles¹.

The updates are part of Herman Miller’s membership in NextWave Plastics, its ongoing commitment to sustainability, and its long-term goal to increase recycled content to at least 50 per cent including the use of ocean-bound plastic across all material the company uses by 2030.

Aeron is the latest in a growing list of products Herman Miller has re-engineered using ocean-bound plastic. The effort also includes parts of the recently launched OE1 Workplace Collection, the Sayl Chair in Europe, utility trays as part of pedestal units, and its latest textile collection, Revenio, which is made of 100 per cent recycled materials and includes a biodegradable polyester. The company is also reducing its footprint by adding ocean-bound plastic to returnable shipping crates that send seating parts to and from suppliers and poly bags used to keep products safe during transit.

“Every year, an estimated eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean. This is roughly equivalent to dumping [a garbage truck full of plastic](#) into the ocean every minute,” said Gabe Wing, Herman Miller’s Director of Sustainability. “We joined NextWave to play an active role in taking on the ocean plastic problem and cast a wide net for opportunities to incorporate ocean-bound plastic across our global operations. We’re proud of the progress we’ve already made with packaging and textiles and are eager to continue doing our part in preventing harmful plastic from reaching our oceans by adding it to the iconic Aeron Chair.”

By integrating ocean-bound plastic into all of these products and packaging solutions, Herman Miller estimates to divert up to 234 tonnes of plastic from the ocean annually, equal to preventing close



to 400,000 plastic milk containers or up to 23 million plastic bottles from entering the ocean annually¹.



Ocean-bound plastic is plastic material that has not yet found its way into the ocean and is classified as “mismanaged waste”. That is, plastic that is not being collected, is unlikely to be collected, and found within 50 kilometres of a coastline. Common examples of ocean-bound plastic include plastic bottles, jugs, caps and fishing gear.

When plastic waste builds up in coastal cities, suppliers work with local pickers to collect the plastic. Once collected, the material is ground, washed and pelletised. From there, it is sold to manufacturers who test and re-engineer the plastic to incorporate into products.



Ocean-bound Plastic Explainer Video

What is ocean-bound plastic and how does it work? View this video to see how Herman Miller is incorporating this plastic waste into our products and processes.

“On our current trajectory we are at risk of tripling the rate of new plastic entering the ocean every year. A critical strategy to disrupt that path is to demonstrate the value of ocean-bound plastic. In bringing the Aeron Chair made with ocean-bound plastic to market, Herman Miller is not only proving the commercial value of the material, but showcasing the power of collective action in developing ocean-bound plastic supply chains,” said Dune Ives, CEO of Lonely Whale. “Herman Miller, and all members of the NextWave Plastics consortium, are taking the necessary action – today – to make a positive impact for the ocean and for us all.”





The plastic used in Aeron is currently sourced from India and Indonesia, which are two of many locations where Herman Miller and other NextWave member companies are creating demand and establishing a supply chain for this material. By sourcing ocean-bound plastic from these areas, the companies are making both economic and social impact by supporting local communities and employing individuals who make a living collecting mismanaged waste near the shoreline.

“We’re doing more than making an environmental impact,” said Bob Teasley, Director of Supply Management at Herman Miller. “By working with coastal communities around the world to harvest ocean-bound plastic, we’re increasing demand, creating jobs and boosting economies.”

Making the best, better for Earth

We advanced the Aeron Chair, adding ocean-bound plastic to the body – all without compromising what makes it the best work chair on Earth.





Aeron's legacy of sustainability and innovation continues to evolve since its introduction nearly 30 years ago. Designed by Bill Stumpf and Don Chadwick in 1994 and remastered in 2016, it first proved pioneering in both ergonomics and material innovation, without relying on the standard use of foam, fabric or leather found in most office chairs at the time.

The Aeron Chair is Herman Miller's top-selling seating solution and has received a variety of awards and recognition, including the Good Design Award (GDA) from the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, FIRA (Furniture Industry Research Association) award, the IDSA Designs of the Decade award, and is part of the permanent collection of MOMA. It was also the company's first product to receive the industry-leading Cradle to Cradle V3 Silver Level certification, assessed on environmental and social performance.

Depending on configuration, the ocean-bound plastic in Aeron can be found in the frame and tilt covers of the chair and contains between 226.8 g and 1.13 kg of the material per chair, equivalent



to approximately 23 to 114 plastic water bottles. The new Onyx Ultra Matte colourway contains the highest amount of ocean-bound plastic at almost 1.13 kg per chair. All chairs within the Aeron Portfolio are up to 90 per cent recyclable³ and composed of over 50 per cent recycled content².



Aeron is available in a palette of four material expressions centred on elements pulled from the Earth. Onyx is a dramatic ultra-black shade intended to modernise Aeron. Graphite is a distinctive dark grey, with a classic textured finish. Carbon offers a balanced neutral that works equally well in warm and cool environments. Mineral is the lightest and illuminates Aeron's finer points, ideal for open floor plans and spaces. Each component of the chair was thoughtfully designed, creating a fundamentally harmonious colour palette.

Aeron's new Onyx Ultra Matte colourway will be available to order from September 2021, in North America. All Aeron colours and configurations will be updated to contain ocean-bound plastic and will be available to order soon. Other use-cases with ocean-bound plastic including OE1, packaging and the Revenio textile collection are in production now.



About Herman Miller

Over the last century, Herman Miller has been guided by a commitment to problem-solving designs that inspire the best in people. Along the way, Herman Miller has forged critical relationships with the most visionary designers of the day, from mid-century greats like George Nelson, the Eames Office, and Isamu Noguchi, to research-oriented visionaries like Robert Propst and Bill Stumpf—and with today's groundbreaking studios like Industrial Facility and Studio 7.5. From the birth of ergonomic furniture to manufacturing some of the twentieth century's most iconic pieces, Herman Miller has pioneered original, timeless design that makes an enduring impact, while building a lasting legacy of design, innovation, and social good. Herman Miller is a part of MillerKnoll, a collective of dynamic brands that comes together to design the world we live in. For more information, visit hermanmiller.com/about.

About NextWave Plastics

[NextWave Plastics](https://www.nextwaveplastics.org) is an industry-led, open-source collaboration among leading technology companies and consumer brands to develop the first global network of ocean-bound plastics supply chains. Convened by Lonely Whale, this consortium aims to keep plastic in our economy and out of the ocean and has committed to preventing 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste from entering the oceans by 2025 across countries most impacted by plastic pollution. Members include Dell Technologies, Bureo, CPI Card Group, Herman Miller, HP Inc, Humanscale, IKEA, Interface, Solgaard and Trek Bicycle. In 2021, NextWave was [awarded the top honours at the United Nations SDG Action Awards](#), which recognise organisations from around the world who are mobilising, inspiring and connecting individuals to make positive change for people and the planet. To learn more, visit www.nextwaveplastics.org, follow on Twitter at [@NxtWavePlastics](https://twitter.com/NxtWavePlastics), or connect on [LinkedIn](#).

1. Based on annual sales forecast
2. Based on top-selling global model
3. Based on available recycling facilities

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August 16, 2023

Herman Miller Launches Post-Pandemic Office Collection

OE1 Workspace Collection Activates Agility and Modularity to Design Offices Fit for the Future.



COVID-19 may not have made any 2020 prediction lists, but it certainly is leaving an impression on how companies and individuals will work in the future. With vaccines rolling out globally, infection rates dropping, and local governments beginning to increase the occupancy of everything from local parks to restaurants, CEOs around the world are looking for new office solutions to fit the future of work.

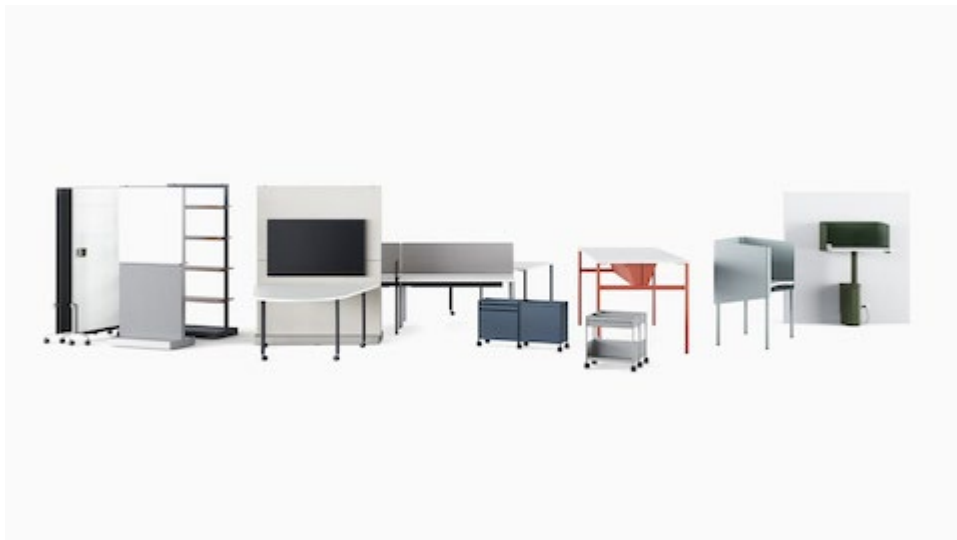
Herman Miller, (NASDAQ:MLHR), who has been at the forefront of every major workplace advancement (yes, even the cubicle), has devoted thousands of hours working with companies of every size trying to help



them navigate the pandemic and prepare for post-pandemic work environments. This research confirmed what Herman Miller workplace strategists predicted pre-pandemic: organisations were craving holistic solutions that took on all of the challenges that come with designing meaningful workspaces for the present, while simultaneously setting them up for success in an uncertain, fast-changing future.

Enter the OE1 Workspace Collection. OE1 is the latest in a line of office products that embraces the unpredictability of the future by landing squarely at the crossroads of agility, functionality and modularity. OE1 offers a wide range of items that can be used to create highly varied work settings yet are flexible enough to adapt to growth, new needs or desires, or even the unexpected – like a global pandemic.

“While this project was started prior to the pandemic, our research over the last year has only intensified our belief in the relevance of this line,” says Ryan Anderson, Vice President of Global Research and Insights at Herman Miller. “With people forced to work outside of offices, traditional means of workplace planning have been challenged by the unpredictability of how people will work now and in the future. These changes will continue, and workspaces need to constantly adapt. Workers are ready for a greater degree of variety, choice and control – people want their environments to work for them, and OE1 is designed to enable that.”





A collection of essential pieces that spans mobile tables, movable walls, height-adjustable workstations, storage trolleys and more, OE1 directly responds to how and where people want to work, encouraging a re-examination of traditional workplace design while allowing employees to build, test and recreate their spaces. By enabling people to experiment with space, employees will gain confidence as they can not only discover solutions needed in the now, but also adjust rapidly if needed. OE1 mitigates the risk of an uncertain future for organisations, yet empowers employees to create optimal spaces to suit their work.

OE1 puts the power of workplace reconfiguration in the employees' hands," says Malisa Byrant, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Global Workplace at Herman Miller. "This is a huge benefit for both the organisation and the employees. For the organisation, it provides a high degree of assurance that their workspaces will remain productive, relevant and desirable over the life of the building without spending vast sums on facility reconfigurations. For the employee, it signals that the space is in service to them – that it exists to facilitate their desired work processes so that they can have greater control and achieve their goals. Real estate is highly static, but work can change quickly. OE1 was designed to bridge the difference in clock speed between work and the workplace to help organisations succeed in a new era of work."

OE1 was created in partnership with designers Sam Hecht and Kim Colin of Industrial Facility. With a goal of understanding the physical and cultural changes that had started to take shape surrounding the future of work, the team made visits around the world to understand the entire industry ecosystem. Identifying these signals of the future, Sam and Kim carefully crafted the suite of products available in the OE1 Workspace Collection.

"One thing we noticed is that day one, the furniture is installed, and day two, things need to be changed. When you zoom out to a macro view, you become aware of the magnitude and pace of ongoing change. So OE1 is more like an un-system – it's playing by different rules that address these scalar changes," says Sam Hecht.

"OE1 offers choice, is flexible, and can adapt so that individuals (not just organisations) get to experience these qualities directly," says Kim Colin. "Our challenge was to invent something completely new while also making it recognisably useful. OE1 is designed so that everything is having a conversation with each other, and the conversation is healthy."



Used as individual pieces or the entire collection, OE1 seamlessly integrates into existing spaces, or can be used to create entirely new ones, enabling organisations to create new facilities or strategically improve existing ones for post-pandemic working. Companies of any size will find that OE1 offers greater agility and better workplace experiences. From the organisation as a whole, all the way down to a team or individual, OE1 creates flexible, fluid environments that can easily adapt to shifting goals and personal preference. With tables that can easily be pushed together or broken apart, flexible walls that divide space and create boundary, and a myriad of other adaptable OE1 products, each one was created with key details specially designed to help spaces meet any number of needs without permanence or rigidity. Above all, OE1 aims to give peace of mind that whatever comes (expected or unexpected), investments have been made in solutions that can quickly shift and adapt with minimal interruption.

For a full look at the OE1 collection, please visit [our website](#).

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August 16, 2023

Cosm, Designed by Studio 7.5 for Herman Miller, Takes Home Red Dot's Best of the Best Product Design Award in the "Office Chairs" Category

This award rounds out Cosm's first year of success on the market, taking home a suite of awards for the revolutionary design.

Herman Miller introduced Cosm, designed by Studio 7.5, in Milan coinciding with Salone Del Mobile, April 2018. The chair officially hit the market in Autumn 2018. Over the last year, the market response for this revolutionary chair has been impeccable.

Today, Cosm chairs have been sold to more than 1,700 companies in 90 countries around the world.

On July 8, 2019, Cosm received the prestigious Red Dot Best of the Best Product Design Award—the competition's top distinction in the "Office Chairs" category—for its innovation, functionality, formal quality, ergonomics, durability, symbolic and emotional content, product periphery, self-explanatory quality, and ecological compatibility. These criteria are used throughout the Red Dot's search for "good design and innovation."

Prior to the announcement from Red Dot, many industry organisations recognised Cosm for its revolutionary design with awards and certifications including:

- #MetropolisLikes Award – NeoCon 2018
- Product of the Year at Mixology 2018
- Green Product Award 2019



- Best of NeoCon Gold – NeoCon 2018
- Interior Design HiP Award – NeoCon 2018
- Cradle2Cradle Silver Certification – 2018
- Fast Company Innovation by Design Award – Fast Co Innovation by Design 2018
- Dezeen Workplace Design Award Shortlist – 2018
- Orgatec Innovation Award – Orgatec 2018
- New York DRIVENxDESIGN Gold Award – 2018

To learn more about Cosm, visit: www.hermanmiller.com/en_gb/cosm

About the Red Dot Design Award

In order to appraise the wide scope of design in a professional manner, the Red Dot Design Award is broken down into three distinct disciplines: Red Dot Award: Product Design, Red Dot Award: Brands & Communication Design and Red Dot Award: Design Concept. With more than 18,000 submissions, the Red Dot Award is one of the largest design competitions in the world. In 1955, a jury convened for the first time to assess the best designs of the day. The name and brand of the award were developed in the 1990s by Red Dot CEO, Professor Dr. Peter Zec. Since then, the sought-after Red Dot is the revered international seal of outstanding design quality. The winners are presented in yearbooks, museums and online. Further information: www.red-dot.org.

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Herman Miller and Studio 7.5 Introduce a Sleek New Office Chair

Zeph Offers a Colourful, Customisable and Ergonomic Solution Fit for Any Space.



Herman Miller, the global leader in innovative design and furnishing solutions and a part of the MillerKnoll collective, today announced that the legendary partnership which has captivated the design world with the Cosm, Mirra and Setu chairs is back— this time with an office chair inspired by the iconic Eames Shell Chair. Design firm Studio 7.5 and Herman Miller have teamed up once again to unveil their latest collaboration, the Zeph Chair.



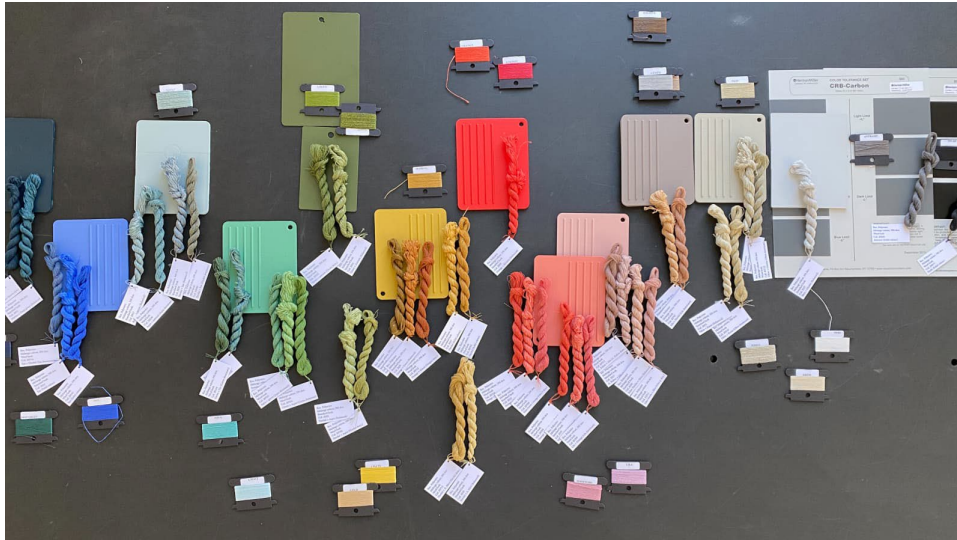
As people across the globe continue to settle into new ways of working, many will continue to need products in both homes and office environments that are as aesthetically pleasing as they are purposeful.

“Zeph marks the introduction of a chair tailored to our new ways of working. It’s an elegant, customisable and colourful addition to Herman Miller’s market-leading portfolio of high-performance seating,” says Ben Watson, President, Herman Miller.

Zeph aims to bridge the gap between Herman Miller’s iconic mid-century designs and the ergonomics of today’s office chairs. The result is an accessible design that doesn’t compromise comfort or style.

With its slim profile and an easy-to-adjust design, users will find Zeph a colourful companion capable of supporting a variety of needs while seamlessly incorporating itself into the scenery of any room. Its versatility easily translates into traditional office settings, providing architects, designers and consumers a refreshing and flexible choice.





The Design

Zeph's clean and uninterrupted silhouette is intentional, and the sculpted mono shell seat delivers a playful nod to mid-century classics. However, customers shouldn't be deceived by its simple, organic appearance. Under the seat lies hidden technology designed to deliver a seamless ergonomic experience that leverages human-centred motion. This allows Zeph to create a natural, fluid motion that works for all body types.

"Our ambition was to create an animated shell chair. What first sounds like a contradiction became possible by utilising the inherent materiality of plastic: being flexible and capable of providing a spring-loaded mechanism. Zeph's joyful aesthetics provide surprising ergonomic benefits too," said Burkhard Schmitz, who helms Studio 7.5 with Carola Zwick and her brother Roland Zwick.

After many iterations of 3-D printed prototypes, Studio 7.5 perfected a one-piece seat and back that actually moves with the person sitting in it. While most chairs are static, the kinematic plastic mono shell on Zeph offers a natural recline that uses the sitter's pivot points to create the right counterbalance and change posture seamlessly.



The expansive colour palette also took inspiration from the past. “One of the things we wanted to pick up from Herman Miller’s mid-century era was the optimistic and delightful idea of the future. We wanted Zeph to be playful and happy,” adds Zwick. The palette or “the crayon box,” as Studio 7.5 says, is intended to be inviting for a variety of tastes, and to let users have some fun.



The uniform hue design, achieved by pioneering dipped-in colour options, was first introduced to Herman Miller by Studio 7.5 through the launch of the Cosm chair. Through this process, colour is applied purposefully to the entire chair, all the way down to the casters, accentuating the sculptural beauty of its form.



3-D Knit Technology

In addition to the bright, dipped-in colour options available for the chair, every Zeph shell can be further customised through the addition of upholstery, either as a seat pad or a unibody (which covers the entire front of the shell).

The unique construction of this upholstery is a first for Herman Miller. The upholstery can easily be mounted and replaced without tools for easy cleaning or to swap different colours, and it utilises revolutionary 3-D knit technology, with each seat option made of 50% recycled polyester yarn — offering sophisticated colour choices and cushioned comfort.



“As professionals enter a new era of empowerment and flexibility, Herman Miller is responding in kind with Zeph — a design that can continue to be customised even after it’s left our care,” adds Watson. “Between colours, shell choices and texture options, Zeph is a thoughtfully designed solution fit for any life or space.”



Availability

Zeph is available in eight distinct colours with 20 seat pad upholstery options. The unibody upholstery options will be available later this year. A side chair version of Zeph with the same kinematic mono shell, will also be introduced early next year. Zeph is now available for contract clients at specific business pricing via an authorised Herman Miller or MillerKnoll dealer. Zeph will also be available to purchase through Herman Miller’s retail locations across the globe in August.



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